

The amendments to the claims are made to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of what applicant regards as preferred embodiments of the invention.

Claims 1-26 are pending.

#### Specification Objections

The specification was objected to for lacking an abstract; not being legible; and lacking proper headings.

For the Abstract, applicant has inserted an Abstract taken from the published PCT application, WO 97/30699. Regarding legibility, applicant has submitted a Substitute Specification, which are copies of pages 1-31 of the published PCT application. Applicant has also inserted headings into the specification that better conform with U.S. patent practice.

#### Claim Allowance

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-7, 10, 16-18 and 21-26.

#### Claim Objection

Claims 13, 14 and 19 were objected to as improper dependent claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the claim objections.

Claim 13 was objected to because the Office Action asserts that claim 13 depends on a subsequent claim. Applicant notes that claim 13 is proper because claim 13 depends on claim 11, which is not a "subsequent claim".

Claims 14 and 19 were objected to as dependent on themselves. Applicant would like to point out that claims 14 and 19 actually do not depend on themselves: claim 14 depends on claim 11 and claim 19 depends on claim 16.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected as indefinite for having improper Markush groups. Applicant has amended claims 8 and 9 using the Markush language of "comprising A, B or C" which is proper according to MPEP 2175.05(h).

Claims 11-15 were rejected as indefinite because the claims are drawn to a use without any concrete steps. Similarly, claims 11-15 were rejected as drawn to a use. Applicant has changed claims 11-15 into method claims.

Claim 20 was rejected as indefinite because of "substantially dry conditions". Applicant has deleted "substantially".

With the above amendments, applicant submits that any indefiniteness is cured. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claims with Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for holding that claims 8, 9, 11-15 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant submits that, since the above amendments overcome all the indefinite rejections, claims 8, 9, 11-15 and 20 are now allowable.

Conclusion

With the above amendments and reasoning, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in a condition for allowance.

In case this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 14-1060.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures:       Substitute Pages 1-31 for the Specification;  
                          Abstract